

Name _____ Date Due _____

Oregon Trail Scavenger Hunt

Find the answers to the following questions in the readings listed on the wikispace.

Trail FAQs

1. How long was the Oregon Trail?
2. What were the starting or jumping-off points of the Oregon Trail?
3. How long did it typically take to travel the Oregon Trail?
4. When was the state of Oregon established?
5. What is now the northern part of the old Oregon Country?
6. What are some reasons people wanted to go to Oregon?
7. How did most Indians view the white settlers?
8. What did the white settlers bring to the Indians of the Pacific Northwest?
9. Why did the government relocate the Nez Perce?
10. What is South Pass?
11. Why was it named South Pass?
12. What two British companies were trapping furs in the Oregon Territory?

13. What did British spies report about the possibility of victory if they went to war with the United States in Oregon?
14. Other than the Oregon Trail, what trails did emigrants take to the west?
15. What group of people followed the trail along the Platte River?
16. Describe the trip across the Oregon Trail.
17. How many people went west on the Oregon Trail?
18. In what years was the Oregon Trail in use?
19. What happened in 1869 that cut down the use of the Oregon Trail?
20. Who drove and in what year did the last wagon travel the entire length of the Oregon Trail?

Did the Oregon Trail Start Here?

1. Name three jumping-off spots of the Oregon Trail.
2. Which of these was the initial jumping-off spot for emigrants to Oregon?
3. About how long did it take the emigrants to get to Oregon?
4. How many pioneers died along the way?
5. What trail paralleled the Oregon Trail on the opposite bank of the Platte River?
6. Near what did the two trails join?

7. St. Joseph is known today as the birthplace of what?

8. What disease broke out in 1850 in Independence?

Wagons

1. Describe a Conestoga wagon.

2. Why were the Conestoga wagons not good for use on the Oregon Trail?

3. Describe a "Prairie Schooner."

4. Why were the bonnets of the Prairie Schooners rarely painted?

5. What was carried in the jockey box?

6. How did a farm wagon compare with a Prairie Schooner?

Outfitting for the Trail

1. Describe the typical wagon of an emigrant on the Oregon Trail.

2. Why were horses not a good choice for pulling wagons to Oregon?

3. Why were oxen the first choice of emigrants?

4. What items were considered necessary to bring along on the trip to Oregon?

5. What was most of the space in the wagons reserved for?
6. How did coffee probably save the lives of thousands of emigrants along the Oregon Trail?

Provisions for the Trail

1. What was the minimum amount it would cost for an emigrant to outfit for the trip?
2. What was the maximum weight of cargo that should not be exceeded for the trip?
3. How much would it cost to buy 6 oxen for the trip to Oregon? Use the most expensive price.
4. How much did it cost for a covered wagon?
5. Find the cost of the recommended amount of food for an adult. Create a list of all of the items and the cost for each.

Life and Death on the Oregon Trail

1. What sort of things were covered in the rules and regulations that most groups traveling the trail created?
2. Describe a typical day on the Oregon Trail.
3. Describe Elizabeth Markham's experience along the Oregon Trail.
4. What perils along the trail caused some of the emigrants to turn back?
5. What were the two biggest causes of death along the Oregon Trail?
6. Describe the effects of cholera.

7. What were some common accidents along the Oregon Trail?
8. What was the biggest accidental killer along the trail?
9. What happened to The Ward Train?
10. If evenly spaced, how often would there be a grave from Missouri to Oregon City?

Disrupting the Natives

1. What was most contact between Indians and emigrants on the overland trails like?
2. What groups of Indians were called “civilized” tribes?
3. What groups of Indians were called “friendlies?”
4. What Indian tribe was religiously opposed to war?
5. What Indian tribe was originally corn farmers from Minnesota?
6. How many main Sioux tribes were there?
7. What happened along the Oregon Trail on August 9, 1854?
8. What did Chief Red Cloud demand in 1866?
9. What happened to General Custer and the 7th Cavalry along the Little Bighorn River?
10. What and when was the final battle of the Sioux Indian War?

11. Describe what happened in the final battle.
12. Who did the emigrants encounter west of the Rocky Mountains?
13. Describe the Nez Perce War.



“I am tired of fighting. The little children are freezing to death. I am tire. My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever.” Chief Joseph, Nez Perce

Women on the Trail

1. What were the gender roles in the United States in the mid-1800s? Give specific examples.
2. Why were dandelions welcome additions to lawns and gardens in the mid-1800s?
3. What unusual thing did the Donation Land Act of 1850 do? Why was this unusual?
4. Why were women not taught to hitch up the wagon, saddle a horse, or drive a wagon in the mid-1800s?
5. What problems did the things listed in question 4 cause for women?
6. What were the feelings of men, children, and women along the Oregon Trail?
7. What chores or “women’s work” were the women expected to do on the Oregon Trail?
8. How were women able to make butter along the Oregon Trail?

9. Why did Mrs. Norton comment that Yankee men are so good to their wives?
10. How many out of 10 emigrants made it safely to Oregon?
11. Did men or women have a more difficult time on the Oregon Trail? Why?

Oregon Trail Mileposts

1. What rivers had to be crossed in Kansan and Nebraska?
2. How close were Alcove Springs and Fremont Springs?
3. What was the California Crossing of the Platte River named for?
4. What rock formations could be seen north of the Platte River?
5. By what date was it the goal of emigrants to reach Independence Rock? Why?
6. What marks the halfway point of the Oregon Trail?
7. What was considered one of the worst stretches of the Oregon Trail?
8. Why would emigrants take that stretch?
9. Describe the features of the lava lands.
10. What was the next milepost after the emigrants passed Farwell Bend?
11. What was the final campground of the Oregon Trail?